

# EXHIBIT M

1977  
SESSION LAWS  
OF THE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

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REGULAR SESSION  
FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Convened January 10, 1977. Adjourned March 10, 1977.

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1st EXTRAORDINARY SESSION  
FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Convened March 11, 1977. Adjourned June 22, 1977.



Published at Olympia by the Statute Law Committee pursuant  
to Chapter 6, Laws of 1969.

RICHARD O. WHITE  
Code Reviser



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the name of the county and city or town, with post office or street address, the date on which the individual registered, and the name or number of the precinct in which the voter is registered.

The voter registration form shall provide, in a conspicuous place, the following warning: "Any person who knowingly supplies false information on this voter registration form or who knowingly makes a false declaration as to his or her qualifications for registration shall be guilty of a class C felony."

NEW SECTION. Sec. 15. Upon receipt of a completed voter registration form, the county auditor shall immediately examine the form to see that the applicant for registration is not currently registered in that county and shall record on the form the precinct identification, taxing district identification, and other information required by law. Except as provided in section 16 of this 1977 amendatory act, the county auditor, within thirty days of receipt of a voter registration form, shall send to the applicant by first class mail a voter registration card identifying his or her current precinct and containing such other information as may be prescribed by the secretary of state. If the voter registration form is incomplete or incorrect the county auditor, within fifteen days of receipt of such form, shall so notify the applicant, and if necessary, send him or her a new voter registration form. The post office shall be instructed not to forward this form or any voter registration card to any other address and to return to the county auditor all undelivered forms and voter registration cards.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 16. To be included among the records of a given precinct for any primary or election, the applicant's voter registration form must be received not later than thirty days prior to that primary or election. An applicant for voter registration whose otherwise complete and correct application is received less than thirty days prior to a primary or election shall be notified by the county auditor that he or she is not eligible to vote in such primary or election at a regular precinct polling place, explaining that he or she may vote an absentee ballot for said primary or election under section 19 of this 1977 amendatory act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. At least thirty-five days prior to each primary or election, the county auditor shall give notice that, in order to be eligible to vote in that election at a regular precinct polling place, an original voter registration form or a request for transfer must be received not later than thirty days prior to that primary or election.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 18. Any qualified elector temporarily residing outside of the county of his or her permanent residence but within the state of Washington, may submit a registration form to the auditor of the county in which he or she is temporarily residing in the manner provided in this chapter. The county auditor receiving the voter registration forms as provided in section 15 of this 1977 amendatory act shall transmit the forms to the county auditor of the county where the applicant permanently resides. A voter registration form received from another county shall be processed immediately by the county auditor of the place of permanent residence of the applicant in the manner provided in sections 15 and 16 of this 1977 amendatory act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. Any otherwise qualified elector whose otherwise complete and correct application for voter registration is received by the county

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auditor less than thirty days prior to a primary or election, general or special, may apply prior to the day of any such primary or election in person to the office of the county auditor of the county of his or her residence for a special absentee ballot for such election or primary. The auditor shall register the individual in the manner provided in this chapter, but the registration shall not be effective until thirty days after its execution. The auditor, after the twenty-first day before the election in which the individual intends to vote, shall issue the individual an absentee ballot for any election which occurs before the effectiveness of the individual's registration. This absentee ballot shall be of the same form and shall be processed and canvassed in the same manner as other absentee ballots under chapter 29.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 20. On the first Monday of each calendar month the county auditor shall transmit all initiative signature cards which have been received in his or her office during the prior month to the secretary of state for filing in his office. Each lot must be accompanied by the certificate of the county auditor that the cards so transmitted are the original cards, and that the voters are registered in the precincts and from the addresses shown thereon.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 21. The initiative signature cards shall be kept on file in the office of the secretary of state in such manner as will be most convenient for, and for the sole purpose of, checking initiative and referendum petitions. They shall not be open to public inspection or be used for any other purpose.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 22. Prior to each primary or election, the county auditor shall prepare a precinct list of registered voters for each precinct in which that primary or election is to be conducted and a certificate as to the authenticity of those records. He or she shall deliver the precinct list of registered voters and the certificate to the inspector or one of the judges of the appropriate precinct at the proper polling place as provided by RCW 29.48.030, as now or hereafter amended.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 23. The precinct list of registered voters for each precinct, delivered to the precinct election officers for use on the day of a primary or an election held in that precinct, shall be returned by them to the county auditor upon the closing of the polling place or at the completion of the count of the votes cast in that precinct at the primary or election. The lists shall be retained by the county auditor for a period of at least one year following the election. These records shall be open to public inspection under such rules as the county auditor may prescribe.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 24. The secretary of state, as chief election officer, shall adopt rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter to:

- (1) Provide the specifications, including style, form, color, quality, and dimensions of the cards, records, forms, lists, and other supplies to be used in recording and maintaining voter registration records;
- (2) Establish standards and procedures for the maintenance of voter registration records on electronic data processing systems and the use of voter registration information in the conduct of elections; and
- (3) Facilitate the registration of voters in an orderly manner and assist county auditors in the performance of their responsibilities under this chapter.

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**PENALTY PROVISION:** Any person who violates any of the provisions, relating to swearing and voting, shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years or a fine of not more than five thousand dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 78. Section 29.36.060, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 1, chapter 140, Laws of 1973 and RCW 29.36.060 are each amended to read as follows:

The opening and canvassing of absentee ballots cast at any primary or election, special or general, may begin on or after the tenth day prior to such primary or election: **PROVIDED**, That the opening of the inner envelopes and actual counting of such absentee ballots shall not commence until after 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the day of the primary or election but must be completed on or before the tenth day following the primary or election: **PROVIDED**, That when a state general election is held, the canvassing period shall be extended to and including the fifteenth day following such election.

~~((This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different dates for counting and canvassing of absentee ballots.))~~ The county canvassing board, or its duly authorized representatives, may elect not to initial the inner envelope but instead place all such envelopes in containers that can be secured with a numbered metal seal, and such sealed containers shall be stored in the most secure vault available within the courthouse until after 8:00 o'clock p.m. of the day of the primary or election: **PROVIDED**, That in the instance of punchcard absentee ballots, such ballots may be taken from the inner envelopes and all the normal procedural steps performed necessary to prepare punchcard ballots for computer count and then placed in said sealed containers.

The canvassing board or its duly authorized representatives shall examine the postmark, receipt mark and statement on the outer envelope containing the absentee ballot and verify that the voter's signature thereon is the same as that on the original application: **PROVIDED**, That if the postmark is illegible, the date on the outer envelope, which a person attests to as provided in RCW 29.36.030 as now or hereafter amended shall be the date for determining the validity, as to the time of voting, of any absentee ballot under the provisions of this chapter. The board then shall open ~~((each))~~ the outer envelopes ~~((postmarked or received (if not delivered by mail)))~~ not later than the tenth day following any primary or special election ~~((day and upon which the statement has been executed according to law in such a way as not to mar the statement))~~, and the fifteenth day following any general election, and remove therefrom the inner envelope containing the ballot.

The inner envelopes shall be initialed by the canvassing board or its duly authorized representatives. The inner envelopes thus initialed must be filed by the county auditor under lock and key. The outer envelopes to which must be attached the corresponding original absentee ~~((voters' certificates))~~ voter's application shall be sealed securely in one package and shall be kept by the auditor for future use in case any question should arise as to the validity of the vote.

Sec. 79. Section 29.39.170, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.39.170 are each amended to read as follows: